Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

L-03 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 /186 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5924

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EEC XG

SUBJECT: EO/WCL AFFILIATION WITH ETUC LINKED TO CGIL ENTRY

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REF: EC BRUSSELS 5973

- 1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SEVERAL LEADERS OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) ARE NOW ADVOCATING THAT THE AFFILIATION OF UNIONS OF THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (EO/WCL) WITH THE ETUC BE CONDITIONED ON THE SIMULTANEOUS AFFILIATION OF THE ITALIAN CGIL. EO/WCL LEADERS VIEW THIS DEVELOPMENT AS AN INTERNAL ETUC PROBLEM WHICH, OTHER THAN POSSIBLY CAUSING SOME DELAY, WILL NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EVENTUAL AFFILIATION OF NEARLY ALL EO/WCL UNIONS WITH THE ETUC. AN IMPORTANT JOINT MEETING OF THE TUC AND EO/WCL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 6 TO FINALIZE THE CONDITIONS OF AFFILIATION. END SUMMARY.
- 2. ON OCTOBER 12 THE EO/WCL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RATIFIED ITS INTENT TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ETUC GOVERNING THE AFFILIATION OF EO/ECL UNIONS WITH IT. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO AGREED TO TERMINATE THE EXISTENCE OF THE EO/WCL AS A RESULT OF THIS AFFILIATION. ACCORDING TO EO/WCL GENERAL SECRETARY JEAN KULAKOWSKI, TALKS WITH ETUC OFFICIALS INITIATED LAST JULY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. HE SAID THAT THE ONLY REMAINING POINTS TO BE DISCUSSED RELATED TO ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS, PRINCIPALLY THE ALLOCATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTED POSITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. HE ANTICIPATED THESE WILL BE RESOLVED AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE ETUC AND EO/WCL EXECUTIVE BOARDS ON NOVEMBER 6.
- 3. KULAKOWSKI SAID THAT EFFORTS TO LINK CGIL'S BID FOR AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC WITH THAT OF THE EO/WCL ARE BEING SPEARHEADED BY GEORGES DEBUNNE OF THE BELGIAN FGTB WITH SUPPORT FROM ETUC SCANDINAVIAN AFFILIATES AND ITALY'S CISL. HE SAID THERE IS ALSO SOME SENTIMENT WITHIN THE ETUC FOR TYING FRENCH CGT AFFILIATION TO THE EO/WCL'S REQUEST FOR AFFILIATION BUT HE BELIEVES CHANCES OF THIS OCCURRING ARE SLIGHT BECAUSE OF CONTINUED FRENCH FORCE OUVRIERE OPPOSITION TO ETUC RELATIONS WITH THE CGT. KULAKOWSKI ALSO CITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CGIL RELUCTANCE TO HITCH ITS PROSPECTS FOR AFFILIATION WITH THE EUC WITH THOSE OF THE CGT AS A FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE CGT'S EXCLUSION ALTHOUGH THE EO/WCL WOULD FAVOR THE ENTRY OF BOTH.

4. KULAKOWSKI TOLD US THAT THE LATEST INDICATION THAT THE CGIL WAS PURSUING AN INDEPENDENT COURSE FROM THE CGT, AT LEAST IN TERMS OF AFFILIATION WITH THE ETUC,

WAS EVIDENCE AT THE RECENT WFTU CONGRESS AT VARNA, BULGARIA (SEE REFTEL). KULAKOWSKI SAID THE CGIL POSITION AT VARNA WAS ONE OF CLEARLY STATING ITS COMPLETE AUTONOMY IN MATTERS AFFECTING WESTERN EUROPE WHILE THE CGT WAFFLED ITS ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENT TO AFFILIATE WITH THE ETUC BY ADVOCATING AN UNCHANGED CGT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WFTU. BOTH THE WCL AND THE EO/WCL SENT OBSERVERS TO THE WFTU CONGRESS. GREENWALD

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